THE PULSE

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of the New England Deaconess Hospital

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OUR HOSPITAL

I wonder if most of us fully realize the "Quality" of the Hospital in which we work and how proud we should be to have any connection with it. Perhaps we should feel like the servants of those old Southern families who were inordinately proud because they worked for "Quality Folks." I had somewhat the same feeling when I saw the Picture Page of the March issue of the American Cancer Society News and saw that two of the twelve pictures and articles on that sheet were of our own New England Deaconess Hospital, and its outstanding work in the fight against cancer.

If you work in Palmer or have been on its first floor on a "clinic day," you know what a busy place the Palmer Outpatient Department is. The clinics are strictly for tumor and cancer, and twenty-two physicians and surgeons of the staff give their time and skill to the many patients who come, not only from Metropolitan Boston but from every part of New England. An average of thirteen clinics per month include all types of malignant and benign tumors. Some cases, such as certain skin tumors, are treated "on the spot" and arrangements are made for others to have X-ray treatment or to be admitted to the hospital for radium or surgery.

As the national drive for funds for the study and treatment of cancer approaches, this subject is, perhaps, more prevalent than at any other time. If there is any doubt in your mind regarding the essentiality of such an undertaking, you have but to become acquainted with the fact that during 1946 — in this hospital alone — 1,123 patients with cancer were admitted. An awareness of the miracles or, at any rate, the "near miracles" which take place within our walls would give you assurance that early cancer can be cured.

The American Cancer Society has, by a grant of funds, made it possible for an adequate follow-up system to be inaugurated for cancer patients in our clinics. Early diagnosis and swift, adequate treatment are important; close and careful vigilance of patients whose disease has been diagnosed as cancer is imperative. The Palmer Outpatient Clinics are but a part of the program of this hospital for the study, treatment and cure of malignant disease.

We are truly proud that our Hospital is one of the leaders in this field, as it has been in so many others. We are associated with a Hospital that is known throughout the country for its outstanding work and we should feel that that association is a privilege.

WE — THE EMPLOYEES

Administration

We were delighted to welcome Dr. Cook back after his two week's vacation in Florida. He reported that "Sunny Florida" has its rainy days, too, so that made us appreciate the short stretch of beautiful spring weather which we had at about that time. We were sorry that Mrs. Cook was called home after such a short time in Florida by the illness of their son but rejoiced with her that his condition so quickly took a turn for the better.

Betty Terkelsen is back with us once more, reporting that her trip to California was "the best vacation I ever had." We bet she is planning her next trip already.

We were sorry to learn of the serious illness of Mrs. Tutein, the wife of our popular former Purchasing Agent, who is a patient at Palmer. We hope that by the time of publication her condition will be much improved, so that we may all have a chance to run in and say "hello" to a very sweet little lady.

Miss Adams, Personnel Manager, made a flying trip to Ohio to spend Easter with her parents and reports having had a perfect Easter.

Vera Fogg and her husband have finally moved into their new home in Malden. They purchased it last September but have been waiting to take possession ever since. However, it made them appreciate it all the more and Vera is now in a whirl of plans for decoration. She certainly sounds domestic!

Dietary

From all we hear, the Harris Hall employees have been having a very gay time. The High School Group have had roller skating parties and they also held a dance on Friday evening, March 28th. The older group were entertained at a Tea by Mrs. Warner on Sunday afternoon, March 30th.

Mrs. Warner resigned from her position as Cafeteria Manager on March 31st. She is moving to Illinois and wished to be there in time for Easter.

Mrs. Shirley Clark has resigned her position as Therapeutic dietitian in the Baker Building on March 28th and Miss Irene Anderson is filling that vacancy. Miss Anderson has had seven years of hospital dietitian experience.

Miss Bernice Quimby, Department Secretary, enjoyed a week's vacation in New Hampshire during March, visiting her home in Derry. She was just in time to see the first signs of Spring — the first robins, and the pussywillows.

Catherine Grady, Deaconess Unit, has been ill and off duty for a month. We all missed her during her absence.

Mrs. Isabella Karpluss came to us on April 1st to accept the position of Cafeteria Manager.

Mr. Phillip Gillis, porter at Harris Hall, was seriously injured recently in an automobile accident and has been in a critical condition at the Cambridge City Hospital.

Housekeeping

The Housekeeping Department really had some excitement this month, when all of the staff in the Palmer Building went on a hunting expedition. The prey that we stalked, however, turned out to be a little white mouse. The chase caused much furore while it lasted, but all was calm after the mouse was returned to his cage in the laboratory.

We were glad to welcome Mrs. Lillian Hunt again, after her six months leave of absence.

We wish to express our sympathy to Peter McDermott in his illness. We trust that his stay in the hospital will not be too long and that he will be back among us within a few months time.

Nursing

Mrs. Gertrude Trout, who has been connected with the Nursing Department for several years and is now an assistant to the Superintendent of Nurses, has accepted the position of Superintendent of Orleans County Memorial Hospital in Newport, Vermont. As this is her "home town" we know she will be very happy in her new location and our best wishes for her success go with her.

We are glad, indeed, to welcome Miss Hamlyn back to her desk on Deaconess Four. She reports that she is feeling in the best of health and has almost completely recovered from her serious illness.

Outpatient Department

We were all thrilled to see the picture of our Clinic in the American Cancer Society News, with Maude Maher attending to one of the patients. We are, in fact, very proud of Maude and her loyalty and cooperation. Did you know that she has been an employee of the hospital for eighteen years, and in that time has only had one and one-half days' sick leave? We wonder if any other employee can equal that record?

Pharmacy and Purchasing

We were sorry to lose Marjorie Ford from the Purchasing Department, but we understand she was offered an excellent position elsewhere. A farewell dinner and theatre party were given her by her friends in the Department. We wish you luck in your new position, Marj.

Michael J. Smith's son was runner-up in the Oratorical contest held by the American Legion and will be given a banquet in the near future. We understand that Michael, Jr., is quite an orator — no wonder his Dad is proud.

Tom Dailey and Lou Peterson have just been through the ordeal of Mid-term exams. We understand that they both did very well. It won't be much longer before they have completed their courses. Good luck, Boys.

Mr. Chamberlin has joined the bowling team and is holding his own up among the high scorers.

THE THRIFT SHOP

Since the opening of the Thrift Shop in Brodbeck Cottage there have been many inquiries as to who the "Friends of the Deaconess" are. This name was adopted in 1932 by a group of women who were interested in the work of our hospital and wished to help us in any way. In 1933 the Surgical Dressings Group was started in charge of Mrs. Frederick T. Lewis. Miss Mabel T. Eager, a member of our Executive Committee, was president from 1932 till 1937, at which time Mrs. Alexander Grant, was elected. During the war surgical dressings were made every day except Saturday and Sunday, but the group have now re-

turned to their usual Wednesday morning gatherings. An average of twenty-two women attend these meetings, held from 9:30 to one. Surgical dressings are made, coffee and cookies are served, and usually some interesting speaker gives an informal talk. Some of the late speakers were Miss Brown of the Operating Room, who spoke vividly of her war-time experiences; and Dr. Meisner of the Laboratory, who described in most interesting detail the hospital ship, "The Haven," on which he was stationed during the war.

Money is raised during the year, by our Annual "Pops" Night, by the Rummage Sale and other means, with which hospital equipment has been bought and Training School Scholarships given. The latest project is the Thrift Shop, which not only is a means of raising money, but also offers our employees a splendid opportunity to purchase many articles at very pleasing prices.

SPORTS

Baseball

A baseball nine is now in the process of being formed. All employees wishing to try out for the team are urged to contact Charles Schraub in the Pharmacy.

Bowling

Bowling nights have become someing to look forward to eagerly — at least so the reports say. The attendance is increasing and so is the fun. We hear that the Engineering Secretary was the particular bright spot of the last Tuesday night! Tales of these bowling nights are so much fun that it is a wonder the whole personnel of the Hospital does not attend. The last scores on record show that the Executive Office Team still leads the group, with an average of 82.1 to date. The Pharmacy group follows closely with an 81.0, and are followed by the Laundry 80.38 and the Engineering with 78.7. Sam, the Barber, is the high scorer of the hospital, consistently staying in the lead, with his average score to date being 93.8. Kay O'Leary is still in the lead for the women, with an average of 85.2. Any other Department who can get a team of four together will be welcome if they will let Charlie Schraub in the Pharmacy know beforehand. We really have a good time — ask anyone who goes. We bowl every other week on Tuesday night. Why don't you come?

EDITORIAL STAFF

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Engineering ..... HERBERT ROBINSON
Hostesses ..... ESTHER PRINCE
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Laundry ..... RITA DENNEHY
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Solution Room ..... DOROTHY BLANCHARD
Volunteer Service ..... PAMELA WHITNEY
X-ray ..... ELEANORE JACOBS